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A N N U A L R E P O R T

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on the

HEALTH OF DEAL

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D U D L E Y W. K I R K

M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer

to the Education Authority for the

Borough of Deal

BOROUGH OF DEAL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

November 1942 to November 1943

Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Councillor A.H.Pargeter	Councillor G.Brenchley

Members

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman E.J.Dobson, J.P.

Alderman R.C.Rowe	Alderman J.Waller
Councillor G.H.Askham	Councillor C.R.Crump
" Dr. G.T.Birdwood	" Mrs. B.Mantle
" Fr.D.Moriarty	" G.H.Fowler

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer

Dudley W.Kirk, M.B., Ch.B.

Senior Sanitary and Foods Inspector,

J.Phil Byng, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

General Assistant (Temporary)

Frank Harrison-Smith

Clerical Assistant

Mrs. Eileen R.Boniface (nee Austin)

BOROUGH OF DEAL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1945

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Deal.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for 1943 which is compiled in accordance for the requirements of the Ministry and includes all the necessary statistics.

A fourth year of war, in this "front-line" town, brought trials and difficulties but the general standard of health was very satisfactorily mainained at a high level. The routine work has progressed well and the Department has been active in its attention to important items which have come more into prominence in these war years. These notably are Diphtheria Immunisation, Food Inspections, Rat Destruction, Work under the Scabies Order, and Post War Reconstruction. Under the latter heading preliminary steps were taken in our Post War planning and the Committee has laid the foundation stones of many important sections of re-organisation and re-construction.

The Birth rate again shows an increase slightly exceeding that of last year's high figure. The Death rate has reduced considerably though the Infantile rate has shown a marked rise. This latter is well below the general figure for the Country and represents ten deaths under this heading during the year. A s all of these were from no unnusal cause this record occasions no comment.

The increase in the number of Infectious Disease Notifications is accounted for by Whooping Cough. An epidemic of this broke out in the last month of the year and though considerable in exent left no stain on the general health of the children.

The routine sanitary work has been fully maintained though we still continue with a reduced qualified staff. The extra work of Food Enforcement undertaken by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, with the agreement of the Public Health Committee and the Food Committee, has not impaired our primary Public Health activities.

This Department also has the charge, direction and organisation of the Deal A.R.P. Casualty Service which has, thoughout the year, acted promptly and shewn its ability in meeting emergencies.

I am grateful to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their wise counsel and co-operation. I express my thanks also to the Town Clerk, Borough Surveyor and Borough Accountant, with their staffs, and all of the other Municipal Departments for their courteous and able assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. W. Kirk.

M.B., Ch.B.

Medica l Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area

The area of the Borough is 2,917 acres, exclusive of the foreshore. No alteration in the area has been made since 1935.

The Rateable Value on 31st December, 1943 was £153, 826

and the sum represented by a Penny Rate - £370

Social Conditions

As in previous reports.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births (for calculating Birth & Infantile Mortality Rate)

Rate per 1,000 of the residential population	18.86

Still Births

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births)	33.90

Deaths

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the residential population	13.48
Death from Puerperal Causes (Registrar-General's list)	
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
No. 30 Other Maternal causes	Nil
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age

All Infants per 1,000 Live births...	43.86
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births.. ...	46.51
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births..	Nil

		Male	Femal
Deaths from Cancer (all Ages)...	24	10	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)..	Nil		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages	3		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	Nil		

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Staff

The department is well established at 'Cherry Orchard', London Road, Deal and we have been fortunate during the year in maintaining our unchanged personnel. Work then has proceeded satisfactorily and arrangements have been in force whereby food

enforcement work is performed by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Our arrangements have allowed that this additional duty to be carried out effectively without impairing the prime duties of the Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities

The continued good services of the K.C.C. laboratories at Maidstone are much appreciated. We continue to co-operate with them in furnishing periodical samples at their request and their reports are received promptly.

Ambulance Facilities

For general ambulance work the town relies upon the voluntary services of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. In spite of depleted personnel in this voluntary body much good work has been done although they have not always been able to meet demands. This deficiency has been met by the good services, in a voluntary capacity, of experienced Civil Defence personnel. The whole ambulance question is earmarked in post-war reconstruction plans for early attention and is a question which is bound up with local hospital facilities.

It is felt that a more stable ambulance position will be required but at the moment the time is not ripe for complete re-organisation and the setting up of some permanent establishment.

The boro' ambulance is available for transport of infectious cases to Eastry Isolation Hospital and this arrangement proceeds satisfactorily. The use of this ambulance facilitates the Eastry Hospital's arrangements as that institution has a very wide area to cover and the use of our own ambulance ensures the prompt admission of our cases to isolation.

Nursing in the Home.

This is met in Deal by the District Nursing Association whose staff consists of two highly qualified midwife-nurses. As remarked last year, the area these women have to cover is large and in my opinion the staff could well be augmented to its benefit. National Service demands, however, rather preclude an extension of this branch at present. All reports received have been most favourable on the work these women perform.

Midwives

The Administration of the Midwives Act remains as previously reported, i.e. under the jurisdiction of the K.C.C.

Clinic & Treatment Centres

All the pre-war clinics have been operated during the year i.e.....

Ante-Natal Clinics	-	St. Georges Hall & Glynn Vivian Mission
Mother & Child Welfare	-	St Georges Hall, Walmer, Glynn Vivian Mission & Mongeham
Tuberculosis	-	Clanwilliam Road, Deal.

All the above are run under the direction of the K.C.C. The new clinic under the Education Authority Operated successfully during the year. It will be remembered that this new clinic was open for Minor Ailments and Dental treatment.

Scabies

The Public Cleansing facilities at the First Aid Post manned by voluntoer staff worked successfully during 1943. The incidence of this disease was low and I feel certain that this result was

obtained largely through the work done at this centre. All the practitioners, Health Visitors and other interested people have co-operated well in sending cases for treatment and it has been found that the technique used now enables us to quickly eridicate the disease in the individual.

Hospitals

Eastry Isolation Hospital continues to accept and treat our infectious cases. This arrangement has been satisfactory.

Deal Isolation Hospital was closed early in the War but in a grave emergency could be re-opened if necessary.

Smallpox cases, of which we have fortunately not had any during the year, would be taken to Poulton in the Dover Borough. No further developments have arisen out of the proposals to institute smallpox facilities under the County at Dislingbury.

Deal, Walmer & District War Memorial Hospital, London Road continues to operate in all its departments and to admit surgical and medical cases from all branches of civil and service life. No extensions have been made to this hospital which continues to perform large amount of emergency and important work.

Health Visitors

As in previous years, these are provided by the K.C.C. and I express my appreciation of the work of these nurses and the co-operation they have given this department. Here again is a question for post-war development when at the right time it will be necessary to consider whether the town itself should not require its own Health Visitor or depending on developments welcome an increase in this branch of nursing.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This work has continued well during the year but as the percentage gradually increases, the number of immunisations decrease. At times during the year, notably in the latter months when illness was more prevalent, there was a marked drop in the numbers done. Propaganda in the shape of posters, pamphlets and cinemas has been periodically employed with good results. There is always, of course, a minority amongst parents who, for some reason, will not avail themselves of the advantages offered but I consider that our percentage compares favourably with general statistics.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

As in previous reports.

The output of water supplied to Deal and Walmer is recorded by meters installed at the Waterworks.

The quantity delivered during the twelve months under review was as follows:

210,520,700 gallons

This figure gives a daily average of 575,399 gallons

The supply is constant and the standard of purity is very satisfactory. As a safeguard against the possibility of contamination all water is chlorinated at the sumps by the Chloramine Process.

The areas of Great Mongeham and Sholden are supplied from water mains owned and maintained by the East Kent District Company of Snodland. No output figures are available for this particular part of the district.

There are only 27 dwelling houses in the Borough which are dependent upon well water for their domestic use. These premises are not within reasonable distance of a water main.

Bacteriological sampling of the public water supply is undertaken at frequent periods and includes samples of both unchlorinated and chlorinated water. These samples are submitted in rotation for examination to:-

The Clinical Research Association Ltd.
The Kent County Council.

Drainage and Sewerage

As in previous reports

Closet Accommodation

As in 1940 Report.

Rivers and Streams

As in previous reports

Public Cleansing

As in previous reports

Post War Reconstruction

A preliminary report was submitted to the Public Health Committee for reference to the Council and Post War Reconstruction Committee on matters primarily affecting the health of the Borough. This document dealt briefly with several aspects most of which are bound up with other Municipal ventures. At the appropriate time it is expected that these questions will be given priority attention in our post-war plans. The headings included Slum clearance & Clearance Areas, Maternity Accommodation Isolation Hospital, Disinfection & Disinfestion, Ambulance Service, Hostels, Day Nurseries, Clinic Service, School Medical Services, Food, Meat, Milk, Refuse Disposal, Health Visitors and Water.

Sanitary Inspection of Area

Your Public Health Staff undertakes the necessary inspections of the district for the purposes provided for by the Public Health Acts, Regulations, Orders and Byelaws in force in the Borough and records are kept for reference. Amongst others, the duties include the inspection of factories, workshops, etc., dwelling houses, farms, dairies and milkshops, slaughterhouses, shops and vehicles, meat and other foods, bakehouse, common lodging-houses and all places where food is prepared for sale.

Shops.

During the year no action was necessary regarding the ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences of shops under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

Camping Sites

There is only one licensed camping site in the Borough where satisfactory sanitary arrangements and water supply are

provided and maintained. No use was made of this site during 1943.

Smoke Abatement

No action was found necessary during the year with respect to the emission of smoke from factory or other premises.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are none of these available in the Area

Eridication of Bed Bugs

During the past year the following action was taken for the eridication of bed bugs:-

1. (a) Houses found infested:

Council Houses	2
Private Houses	5

(b) Houses disinfected:

Council Houses	2
Private Houses	5

2. Methods employed in disinfecting houses:

(a) By Sulphur, Formalin and Cimex..	Nil
(b) By spraying with Insecticide ...	7
(c) By gassing with H.C.N.	Nil

Rats

A considerable amount of work was performed by the Department during the year in the eridication of rats particularly in the older part of the town and amongst the food premises. Use was made of a recognised firm for rat destruction and this work met with some success. The action of the Ministry of Food, however, puts the matter on to a more satisfactory basis and it is anticipated that early in 1944 we will have a local organisation in operation to attack this problem more directly.

Schools

During the year it was possible to re-institute normal school hours for the children and the medical supervision and work proportionately increased. Towards the end of last year full medical services had once again been re-instituted and centred on new clinic premises in Cowper Road, Deal. Here the School Minor Ailments and Dental Clinics were re-commenced and with a new nursing staff all the former medical facilities were again in operation for the children.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928

As in previous reports

Below in Tabular form is given the report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

TABLE OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS

Animal Keeping	2
Accumulation of manure and other refuse removed.	9
Bakehouse Inspections	28
Cesspools Emptied.	4
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspections	42
Disinfestation of Premises, inspections	12
Drains cleared or cleansed	
Drains reconstructed	48
Drains repaired	
Factories, Workshops etc. inspections.	32
Gutters and Downspouts repaired	20
Inquiries into Infectious Disease	32
Inquiries under Scabies Order	42
Food preparing pr mises, including Meat Shops	318
Licensed Premises and places of Public Entertainment.	4
Miscellaneous	32
Offensive trades, inspections	9
Overcrowding.	3
Rats and Mice Inspection	241
Refuse Disposal	1
Roofs repaired	38
Sanitary bins provided.	10
Shops	54
Sinks renewed or repaired and traps provided	4
Slaughterhouse inspections	10
Unclean premises dealt with.	7
Waterclosets, structural defects remedied	19
Walls repaired or treated	55
Windows renewed or repaired.	29
Works in progress, inspections during.	368
Yards, paved or repaired	4
Informal Notices served	186
Statutory Notices served	4

HOUSING

As in previous reports.

No building by private enterprise or by the Local Authority took place during 1943.

Housing Statistics

The following table shews the total number of dwelling houses inspected and the rsult of action taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Housing Act, 1936.

Public Health Act, 1936

Number of houses inspected	762
Number of inspections made for that purpose	905
Number of Informal Notices served requiring nuisances to be abated	186
Number of Abatement Notices served and complied with	4

Housing Act, 1936

Number of houses inspected and recorded.	3

Housing Act 1936 (cont.)

Number of Inspections made for that purpose ...	3
Number of Informal Notices served requiring repairs to be carried out (Section 9)...	-
Number of Statutory Notices served under (Section 9 and complied with.	-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops in the Borough have been regularly inspected by your Sanitary Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Under the provision of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences were issued by the Council:-

Pasteuriser's Licences	1
Pasteuriser's Supplementary Licences	-
Tuberculin Tested (Cert.) Dealer's Licences...	2
Tuberculin Tested Dealer's Licences.	-
Accredited Supplementary Licences...	-

Twenty five samples of Graded Milk were collected for and submitted to the Kent County Council. Of these, fourteen satisfied the prescribed tests. Nine of the eleven samples which failed referred to two farms for which the Kent County Council had issued Tubercular Tested Milk Production Licences. A s the result of these failures the County Authority suspended the licences. The farmer concerned is arranging for alterations to be carried out to the milking sheds which when completed will bring the building up to the modern standards for milk productions. The other two unsatisfactory samples were due to minor production defects and were soon remedied.

Meat and Other Foods

Up to time of inception of Government Centralised Slaughtering, there were 10 private slaughterhouses in use in Deal, six of which were registered and four licensed.

Eight visits were made in connexion with emergency slaughtering.

The total quantity of meat and offals found unfit for human consumption during 1943 was 20 lbs.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No.killed	Nil	Nil	Nil	9
No. inspected.	Nil	Nil	Nil	9
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

CARSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED (cont.)

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The number of inspections made with respect to other food premises were 396.

As the result of these inspections the following food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered for destruction:

Article	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Fish	-	1	3	5
Meat (other than Tinned Meat)				20
Rice		-	-	14
Butter...		-	-	5¼
Cheese...		-	-	15¼
Jam (including Tinned Jam ...		-	3	19½
Confectionery.		-	-	12
Flour		-	-	8
Cake		-	2	2½
Fruit		-	1	12
Tinned Meat...		7	2	23½
Total ascertained weight		11	3	25
7 Tins Soup 43 Tins Fish 73 Tins Fruit 22 Tins Prepared Meals 139 Tins Milk 44 Tins Vegetables 4 Tins Beans 22 Btls. Pickles 164 Pies	Estimated weight	3	1	20
Total		15	1	17

Adulteration

The following samples were taken and submitted for examination under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, by the Food and Drugs Authority during the twelve months ended 31st. December, 1943:

Article	Number of Samples	Number Genuine
Samples of Milk	32	30
Samples of Dry Goods	27	27
Samples of Spirits..	9	9
Samples of Drugs	3	3

With the exception of two samples of milk, all of these samples were reported by the Public Analyst for the County of Kent to be Genuine articles. In the instance of these two milk samples, a local producer of milk was cautioned by the Clerk of the County Council for supplying milk which was deficient in butter-fat to the extent of at least 13 per cent.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Infectious Diseases

The following table shews the infectious diseases notified during the year:-

Disease	Total cases notified		Civilian cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths
	Civilian	Non-Civilian		
Small Pox	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	18	1	11	-
Diphtheria	1	1	1	-
Enteric Fever, including Para-Typhoid Fever ...	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.. ...	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	2	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	-	-	-	-
Malaria..	-	-	-	-
Measles..	3	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	88	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis	-	-	-	-
Polio-encephalitis. ...	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-	-	-
Chicken Pox...	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	1	-	-	-
Mumps	-	3	-	-
Enteritis	-	-	-	-
German Measles	-	1	-	-
TOTALS:	111	8	12	-

Disinfection

Following the notification of an infectious disease the infected premises are inspected both by myself and by the Sanitary Inspector. This is done for the purpose of tracing, if possible, the source of infection. The patients are removed to the Isolation Hospital, the bedroom and its contents, i.e. bedding and wearing apparel, are fumigated and the bedding and clothing removed for steam disinfection. Premises where home treatment of

the disease has been carried out are similarly treated after the recovery of the patient.

During 1943 the disinfection of 40 rooms and of 85 batches of clothing etc. was carried out.

There is no arrangement in the Borough that provides for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons, although such appears to be advisable.

Examination of Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens

This service provided by the Kent County Council at the County Laboratory, County Hall, Maidstone, has, as previously reported, been of valuable assistance to myself and other medical men in this district.

Cancer

The number of deaths from malignant disease in this area during 1943 was:

	Males	Females	Total
Deal Borough	10	14	24

This gives a death rate below that for 1941.

No information is available as to the incidence of cancer at any particular age or in any particular occupation.

Prevention of Blindness

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

It was not necessary to take action under the Public Health Act, (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to employees in the milk supply trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to hospital.

The following table shews the new cases and mortality relating to tuberculosis during the year 1943:-

	New Cases				Deaths			
Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
20-25	2	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
25-35	2	2	-	-	2	1	-	-
35-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55-65	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Totals:	14	6	-	2	5	3	-	1

The number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis which had been notified was 8. The number which had not been notified was 1.

The Register, at the end of 1943, shewed the following cases of tuberculosis in the Borough:-

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Totals
Male	31	7	38
Female...	17	6	23
Totals:	48	13	61

BOROUGH OF DEAL

G E N E R A L S U M M A R Y

Area ... ... 2,917 acres

	Deal	England and Wales
Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 population..	18.86	16.5
Annual Death Rate -do- (Crude) ...	13.48	12.1
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births.	43.86	49.0

Comparative figures for Deal:	Birth Rate	Death Rate Crude	Infantile Death Rate
1938	17.51	11.95	63.41
1939	16.64	12.94	41.34
1940	16.46	13.75	18.80
1941	17.88	14.82	27.93
1942	18.69	15.82	21.93

Rateable Value, end of 1943.. ... ... £153,826

Product of Penny Rate, end of 1943 ... ... £370